

REMARKS

In the present Office Action, claims 1-29 were examined; claim 1 was rejected; claims 2-8 were objected to; and claims 9-29 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the present patent application in view of the Remarks submitted herewith.

Rejection of the Claims

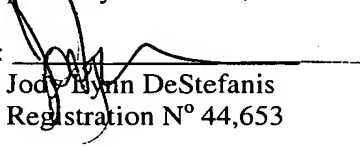
In the March 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hubbell et al. (US Patent No. 5,969,242). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Hubbell et al. patent discloses a method for measuring a parameter in a well, under isobaric conditions, using a transducer deployed within a well casing. The Examiner has asserted that Column 7, lines 13-15 of the Hubbell et al. patent discloses the use of a fluid sampling tool to extract fluid from the earth formation into a flow channel within the tool. However, this section of the Hubbell et al. patent describes a conduit for fluid to travel into a cased well wherein the tool (the transducer) is positioned. This section of text does not disclose the flow of fluid into the transducer. In fact, there is no reference in the Hubbell et al. patent to a flow channel within the tool.

Furthermore, the Examiner has asserted that Column 5, Lines 32-34 of the Hubbell et al. patent discloses "when the indication of contamination in the fluid has stabilized, analyzing the fluid in the flow channel." However, the cited text describes the placement of a pressure transducer in a well to measure a parameter and contains no reference to: (1) the stabilization of an indication of contamination or (2) a fluid within a flow channel of the tool. Accordingly, the cited text does not render the present invention unpatentable.

Because the Hubbell et al. patent fails to disclose the flow channel configuration of the present invention as well as the stabilization of an indicator of contamination, the present invention is patentable over this reference. Accordingly, Applicants submit the present invention as presently claimed is patentable and respectfully requests reconsideration and further consideration of the application. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 16, 2004
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